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JPRS Report

Proliferation Issues

Reaction to 5 Oct PRC Nuclear Test

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14 October 1993

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Location of Lop Nor Test Area. (Detail of test site shown in inset)

U.S. Statement About Test Preparations 'Refuted'
*OW2709133793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
1000 GMT 27 Sep 93*

[From the "News" program]

[Text] In a brief statement released today [27 September] the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuted [bo chi] the U.S. claim that China is preparing for a nuclear test.

It pointed out that China follows a policy of restraint on the issue of nuclear testing.

The U.S. State Department had stated earlier that, according to U.S. intelligence, China planned to conduct an underground nuclear test during the first week of October.

**Support for Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy
Reiterated**

*OW2809033593 Beijing XINHUA in English 0323
GMT 28 Sep 93*

[Text] Vienna, September 27 (XINHUA)—China today reiterated its stand on basic nuclear issues, emphasizing that the just demand of developing countries for the peaceful use of nuclear energy should not be neglected.

Jiang Xinxiang, head of the Chinese delegation, told the 37th session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that China always opposes the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

But the effort to prevent proliferation should not be used as a pretext for hampering the development of nuclear technology and industry in developing countries, he noted.

Jiang added that some developed nations have undermined the rights and interests of the developing countries by preventing them from obtaining nuclear technology for peaceful use under the excuse of halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In recent years, they even attempted to make use of the issue to bring pressure to bear on the developing nations, said Jiang, who is the general manager of China National Nuclear Industry Corporation.

While speaking highly of IAEA's role in promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology, Jiang said however that the current situation "is not satisfactory" as industrialized nations continue to monopoly nuclear science and technology.

As technological assistance and cooperation constitute an important part of IAEA's duty, the organization should provide technological aid aimed at promoting economic programs of the developing countries after careful surveys, and increase its advice to these nations concerning their nuclear programs and measures to carry them out, Jiang suggested.

On the nuclear safeguards system, Jiang said IAEA should be "impartial, objective, reasonable and transparent" in carrying out the safeguards, and such work should not be controlled and monopolized by a few countries.

At Monday [27 September] afternoon's meeting, Jiang also reported to the IAEA China's development in the nuclear industry.

Qian Qichen Addresses UN, Discusses Nuclear Tests
OW2909183493 Beijing XINHUA in English
1813 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] The United Nations, September 29 (XINHUA)—Chinese Vice-Premier Qian Qichen today reaffirmed China's stance of non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, saying that "the ultimate objective of mankind should be the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of those weapons."

Speaking at the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Qian Qichen, who is also foreign minister, said the Chinese Government has always stood for a total nuclear test ban within the framework of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

"We support an early start of negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty and will work in common

with the other countries towards a comprehensive nuclear test ban at an early date," Qian said.

He stressed that China has always exercised great restraint in nuclear testing and "the number of our tests is the smallest among all nuclear powers."

Qian suggested that nuclear powers reach an agreement "not to be the first to use nuclear weapons as well as not to use the same against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-free zones," if complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons cannot be achieved soon enough.

"This is entirely feasible and should be done as soon as possible," he said, because "this will put nuclear powers to the test to see whether they are willing genuinely to treat non-nuclear-weapon states as equals."

He said that China has long since unilaterally undertaken not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances, and not to use or threaten to use them against any nuclear-free zone or non-nuclear-weapon state.

"We call upon all the other nuclear powers to make the same pledge and conclude an international convention to this effect as soon as possible," he said.

Qian also spoke of the international arrangements and conventions that are designed to control arms transfers and ban certain types of weapons of mass destruction.

He said that the arrangements designed to control transfers of missile and its technology should also take into account such elements as the arbitrary use of missiles for attacks on other countries.

Otherwise, he said, such an arrangement will become a means by which certain powers can maintain military superiority or play power politics.

Qian spoke out China's opposition to "all too frequent arbitrary use of sanctions by one country to bring pressure to bear on another under the pretext of controlling arms transfers while engaging in massive arms sales of one's own which jeopardize the sovereignty and security of the country concerned."

Beijing Remains 'Tight-Lipped' on Nuclear Test
OW3009111793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT
30 Sep 93

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 30 KYODO—A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman remained tight-lipped Thursday [30 September] over accusations that China will soon conduct a nuclear test, but added that China is willing to consider proposals for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

"We always exercise the utmost restraint as regards nuclear tests," Wu Jianmin told reporters at his weekly press briefing. "China has conducted the smallest number of nuclear tests among all other nuclear states," he said.

"We always stand for a comprehensive nuclear test ban within the framework of a comprehensive prohibition and thorough destruction of all nuclear weapons," he added.

Wu's statement came days after U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a United Nations speech, appealed to all nations to heed an international moratorium on the testing of nuclear weapons.

U.S. intelligence reports have recently indicated that China is on the verge of setting off a new underground nuclear explosion.

Wu refused to confirm or deny the reports.

Clinton's Monday speech also included an initiative to cease the production of nuclear materials for nuclear weapons and have such materials placed under international inspection.

Such an initiative, if agreed to, would theoretically place the five declared nuclear powers—Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States—under obligation to accept international inspections.

"China...is also preparing to conduct comprehensive studies on the positions and specific proposals that have been put forward by the parties concerned," Wu said, apparently responding to Clinton's U.N. proposal.

'Full Text' of Government Statement on Nuclear Testing

*OW0510111893 Beijing XINHUA in English
1102 GMT 5 Oct 93*

[Text] Beijing, October 5 (XINHUA)—The Chinese Government today issued a statement on the question of nuclear testing, the full text of which follows:

On October 5, 1993, China conducted an underground nuclear test.

It is entirely for the purpose of self-defense that China develops and possesses a small number of nuclear weapons. On the very day it became a nuclear-weapon state in 1964, the Chinese Government solemnly declared that at no times and under no circumstances would China be the first to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. It has also undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-free zones. In keeping with this policy, it has signed and ratified the relevant additional protocols of the treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty.

China has all along stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and a comprehensive nuclear test ban in this context. Proceeding from this basic position, China has always exercised utmost restraint on nuclear testing and the number of the nuclear tests it has conducted is extremely limited.

China fully understands the sincere desire of the non-nuclear states for an early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty through negotiations and believes that such a treaty has its positive significance. While supporting its early conclusion, China will take an active part in the negotiating process and work together with other countries to conclude this treaty no later than 1996. At the same time, China believes that a pledge by all nuclear-weapon states not to use nuclear weapons at all is of even greater significance as it is a more effective step towards the non-proliferation goal underscored by the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. To this end, China strongly calls for a parallel negotiation by all nuclear-weapon states aimed at concluding an international convention on unconditional non-first-use of nuclear weapons and non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and nuclear-free zones.

After a comprehensive test ban treaty is concluded and comes into effect, China will abide by it and carry out no more nuclear test. History has shown that a conditional "moratorium" designed to maintain nuclear superiority while refusing to renounce nuclear deterrence and commit oneself to complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons is of extremely limited significance. Countries that possess the largest nuclear arsenals are the first to develop nuclear weapons, have conducted the largest numbers of nuclear tests and are the most advanced in nuclear weapon technology. They ought to bear the special responsibility by taking the lead to cut down their own nuclear development, renouncing their policy of nuclear deterrence centered around first-use of nuclear weapons and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and nuclear-free zones, and undertaking the clear commitment to complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and keeping on drastically reducing their nuclear weapons, so as to create conditions for other nuclear countries to take part in the nuclear disarmament process and for the ultimate realization of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

China is a peace-loving country and an important force devoted to preserving peace, security and stability in the world. It has consistently dedicated itself to the lofty cause of peace and development of entire mankind. China is ready to continue working tirelessly, together with the international community, for an early realization of the ultimate goal of worldwide prohibition and thorough elimination of nuclear weapons.

Reaction to Test Seen as 'Unfair,' Test Ban Treaty Endorsed

*OW0710105893 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service
in Chinese 0935 GMT 7 Oct 93*

[By reporter Xin Huaishi (6580 2037 2514)]

[Text] Beijing, 7 Oct (XINHUA)—Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wu Jianmin pointed out today that China has always adopted an attitude of exercising great restraint [chi shi fen ke zhi de tai du 2170 0577 0433

0344 0455 4104 1966 1653] toward the nuclear test issue, and that "it is unfair to use a magnifying glass to observe China's nuclear test."

At a news conference held this afternoon, a reporter asked: Some countries expressed regret over China's conducting a nuclear test. What are your comments on this?

Wu Jianmin said: China has always adopted an attitude of exercising great restraint toward the nuclear test issue. The number of nuclear tests conducted by China is the least among the five states with nuclear capabilities. It is unfair to use a magnifying glass to observe China's nuclear test. China fully understands the sincere desire of the broad masses of nonnuclear states for an early conclusion of the "Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty" through negotiations, believes that the conclusion of such a treaty has its positive significance, and will take an active part in the negotiation process. However, meanwhile, we believe, while the conclusion of the treaty mentioned above is under negotiation, negotiation by all the nuclear-weapon states and their conclusion of an international convention on unconditional non-first-use of nuclear weapons and non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against nonnuclear states and nuclear-free zones has even greater significance.

Jiang Zemin on Nuclear Policy, Sino-U.S. Summit Talks

OW1110104993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0900 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer-read report over video; from "NHK News" program]

Mori Yoshiro, secretary general of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, now on a visit to Beijing, met today with CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin. [video shows Jiang Zemin greeting Mori at entrance of a building and holding talks with Mori in a room with two unidentified interpreters seated between them] During the meeting, Mr. Mori expressed concern over China's recent nuclear testing. In response, General Secretary Jiang Zemin said China's nuclear testing is intended for self-defense.

During the meeting, Mr. Mori said: The guideline for Japan's official development assistance [ODA] stipulates that the Japanese Government should examine whether

the ODA recipient is engaged in developing weapons of mass destruction. In particular, the Japanese people take a serious view of the development of nuclear weapons. I do hope China will give consideration to the Japanese people's feelings in the future. In this way, Mr. Mori expressed concern over China's resumption of nuclear testing on 5 October for the first time after one year of moratorium.

In response, the Chinese leader said: China's nuclear development is intended for self-defense. It has manifested that it will never use nuclear weapons for preemptive strikes. I hope that all nuclear arms will be dismantled in the future.

During the meeting, Mr. Mori expressed hope for improvement in U.S.-China relations. In response, the Chinese leader expressed his strong enthusiasm for attending a summit meeting of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and Sino-U.S. summit talks that will be held for the first time in 4 years.

Defense Minister Chi Haotian Defends Nuclear Test

OW1110140593 Beijing China Radio International in Mandarin to Asia 0900 GMT 11 Oct 93

[From the "News" program]

[Text] On 10 October, China's Defense Minister Chi Haotian spoke in Beijing, saying: It is totally unjustified for some countries to make irresponsible remarks or even criticize China over its recent nuclear test.

In an interview with a station reporter, Chi Haotian pointed out that of all the nuclear weapon-possessing countries, China has conducted the smallest number of nuclear tests, and has always adopted a very cautious attitude over them. The small number of nuclear weapons that China possesses is entirely for the purpose of self-defense. He reiterated China's solemn, just, and clear-cut position on the question of nuclear weapons, that is, at no time and under no circumstances would China be the first to use nuclear weapons; China has also undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states or nuclear-free zones. Chi Haotian said: For a long time, China has made the thorough destruction of nuclear weapons in the world an ultimate goal. China is ready to continue working together with the international community to realize this goal.

Test Reported, Policy on Nuclear Tests Reiterated
*OW0510215793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
1300 GMT 5 Oct 93*

[Text] At least 71 earthquake observation stations in various countries detected a nuclear test conducted by China.

Major news agencies reported this matter, quoting a London-based independent information center responsible for supervising nuclear technology.

Nuclear armament experts have predicted that China's nuclear test might seriously interrupt the moratorium on nuclear tests, which was agreed to by Russia, the United States, and France.

Although the United States extended its moratorium to 1 October 1994, a White House source declared that this decision would lose effect after the first nuclear explosion was conducted anywhere in the world.

Russia has undertaken the commitment to continue its moratorium so long as all nuclear countries observe the moratorium.

Nuclear Test 'Undermines' Moratorium Observation

*PM0610140393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
6 Oct 93 First Edition p 4*

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Nuclear Explosion in Xinjiang, PRC Foreign Ministry Will Not Confirm Report"]

[Text] Beijing—So the information from U.S. reconnaissance satellites to the effect that China was preparing to conduct a nuclear test at the underground test site in Xinjiang has been confirmed. The London-based Verification Technology Information Center reported on 5 October that a weapon of between 10 and 19 kilotons had actually been detonated.

I asked the Foreign Ministry to comment on this report. It replied that there was no information as yet on the subject. You may recall in this connection that, at the last briefing, the official Chinese spokesman Wu Jiangmin had avoided giving a direct reply when asked whether China was intending to conduct a nuclear test. He repeated the old Chinese position to the effect that Beijing favors a ban on nuclear tests within the framework of the general prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. Wu Jiangmin added that China has conducted 25 times fewer tests than the United States, and also far fewer than the other nuclear powers.

Well, China is indeed lagging behind the other members of the "nuclear club" in terms of the number of tests. But the resumption of tests by China undermines the chances of the moratorium, which all the other nuclear powers have effectively joined, being observed. Moreover, the blast in Xinjiang is unlikely to contribute to the success of the meeting between PRC President Jiang Zemin and

U.S. President B. Clinton, which is due to take place in Seattle in November. In fact, Clinton actually urged Beijing not to carry out the test and even warned that it could adversely affect trade links between the two powers.

Local observers are wondering why Beijing decided to defy international public opinion. Perhaps the generals in the military-industrial complex had insisted on the continuation of tests because they wanted to improve their products. Be that as it may, the test is unlikely to strengthen China's security. In particular, because it could incite India and Pakistan, which started to create their own nuclear potentials a long time ago, to follow their neighbor's example.

Moreover, it should not be forgotten that the nuclear test site is situated on the territory of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, populated mainly by ethnic minorities. How are the Kazakhs, Uygur, and Kyrgyz living there going to react to the blast? It is difficult to say, since any public protest against the authorities' policy in Xinjiang is inconceivable.

But it is not difficult to imagine the mood of the indigenous population. Indeed, on the other side of the border, in Kazakhstan, members of the antinuclear movement have said that tests in Xinjiang pose a threat to the health of people living in Central Asia. Remember that the nuclear test site, located in the dried-out Lake Lop Nor, is approximately 900 km from the Chinese border with Kazakhstan.

Foreign Ministry Expresses 'Deep Regret' Over Test

*OW0710070393 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
1300 GMT 6 Oct 93*

[By station commentator (Kushnir); from the "Good Evening, China" program]

[Text] China's nuclear test has caused uneasiness in the whole world. Our station commentator (Kushnir) has written the following article on this topic:

A Chinese official asserted: China has undertaken all relevant security measures for the nuclear test, which will not pose a threat to neighboring nations.

However, the international community is not satisfied with the above statement. China resumed nuclear testing a year after its last nuclear test in Lop Nur, thereby seriously threatening the agreement on temporarily suspending nuclear tests. Other nuclear powers, including Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, have been abiding by this agreement.

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed deep regret over China's 5 October nuclear test. He said: The Chinese action will invariably have an adverse effect on the atmosphere surrounding the talks on banning all nuclear tests. He added: The Russian president will take

into consideration all aspects of the situation, including other nuclear powers' reactions before making a decision on the issue.

According to British Foreign Secretary Hurd, U.S. President Clinton has ordered the Nevada test site to prepare for a nuclear test. The Swedish foreign minister said that the Chinese nuclear test has scuttled a favorable opportunity for introducing a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. Japanese Foreign Minister Hata said: The Japanese Government strongly protests China's nuclear test, which was conducted despite the fact that other nuclear powers have been observing the moratorium on nuclear testing. Observers noticed: India, Pakistan, and other nations that are prepared to conduct nuclear tests may now exert pressure on their governments, forcing them to agree to carrying out nuclear tests.

Finally, let us introduce (Mulomujitov's) viewpoint on China's nuclear test. (Mulomujitov) is chairman of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk Antinuclear Movement in Kazakhstan. He said to the station reporter: China's Lop Nur is not far from Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan. We believe that tests conducted there threaten both the people of Xinjiang and Kazakhstan. Since the Semipalatinsk test site was closed permanently 2 years ago, we have set the goal of persuading China to close the Lop Nur test site. We believe that this goal eventually will be accomplished.

Leadership Expresses 'Profound Regret' Over Test

PM0710083393 Moscow *IZVESTIYA* in Russian
7 Oct 93 First Edition p 1

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Moscow Deplores Nuclear Testing in China"]

[Text] The Russian leadership and its various competent organizations express profound regret in connection with the powerful underground nuclear explosion carried out by China 5 October, after a year's interruption.

In a conversation with your *IZVESTIYA* correspondent, a Russian Ministry of Defense spokesman said that Moscow is particularly concerned because the nuclear explosion was carried out at a time when Russia, the United States, and France are observing a moratorium, and when intensive preparations are under way for the start of international talks on the conclusion of a treaty on a universal ban on such tests. Russian military specialists are worried that the PRC's actions may bring about a wave of renewed nuclear testing by other nuclear powers. "This must not be allowed to happen," the Ministry of Defense believes. According to the military, China must declare a moratorium on nuclear explosions.

The Ministry of Atomic Energy noted that the question of China's "behavior" must be discussed at UN level as quickly as possible, and everything must be done to convince the Chinese side that it should not resume nuclear testing in the future. Russian nuclear scientists

are calling on other nuclear powers not to violate the moratorium and not to resume their own testing.

Grigorii Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, noted that the actions of the Chinese side cannot fail to have a negative effect both on the atmosphere in which the whole negotiating process on a complete ban on nuclear testing is being conducted, and on the preparations for the upcoming conference on extending the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

According to its spokesman, the Foreign Ministry is studying the prevailing situation. G. Karasin reported that President Boris Yeltsin "will adopt a decision on this question, taking all factors into account, including the response of other nuclear powers."

And this response came immediately from abroad. The White House gave the U.S. Department of Energy instructions to start preparing for a possible routine explosion at the test range in the state of Nevada by way of a reciprocal measure. News agencies report that President Bill Clinton will adopt a decision on the expediency of resuming the U.S. nuclear testing program, guided by the "vital interests of U.S. national security."

The governments of Japan, Sweden, France, the Netherlands, Australia, and other countries have expressed resolute protests to China.

'Chain Reaction' to Nuclear Test Must Be Prevented

PM0710153193 Moscow *KRASNAYA ZVEZDA*
in Russian 7 Oct 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev article: "Lest There Be a Chain Reaction..."]

[Text] The report about China carrying out an underground nuclear weapons test even crowded out materials about events in Russia on the pages of the world press. And this is not surprising. For over a year now the nuclear powers have been observing a moratorium on nuclear explosions. In summer this year U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that Washington was extending this moratorium for at least another 15 months. On the same day Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin confirmed that Russia would take an analogous stance and that it too does not intend to renew nuclear testing. France and Great Britain also shared this point of view. Only China took an evasive stance, and did not join the official moratorium. But even China had not tested nuclear weapons since September 1992.

And now this restraint has been cast aside by the Beijing leadership. A very powerful nuclear explosion—in the order of 1 megaton, according to the information of a number of agencies—went off at the Lop Nor test range in Northwest China.

But the point is not just the force of the Chinese explosion, although it was, of course, very substantial. The point is that this explosion may serve as a detonator and initiate, as nuclear physicists say, a chain reaction of nuclear tests in other countries. The Washington Administration, the NEW YORK TIMES reports, has already given instructions for preparations for resuming U.S. testing, which officials at the Defense Department, the Security Council, and the State Department are advocating. You can easily imagine that other countries may also resume testing. After all, in declaring a moratorium they stipulated that a condition of its observance is that no one whatsoever should resume nuclear explosions.

It is impossible to believe that Beijing did not realize what consequences its step would entail. It recently received several warnings on this account. Nevertheless, the Chinese leadership decided to ignore them. Why? The Chinese themselves claim that it is first and foremost the countries that have the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons that should restrict their activity in developing them. And China, they say, only has a limited amount of such weapons. What strange logic! It works out that, with the aim of saving humankind from the

nuclear threat, China must reach the level of other nuclear powers, that is, build up nuclear weapons.

There is another side to this question. Quite recently at the Conference on Disarmament in Paris, its participants,—representatives of 39 states—agreed that at the next session of the conference, in January of next year, talks should start on a complete and universal ban on nuclear testing. But if the moratorium on this is rescinded what talk can there be of a ban?

And not only that. The fate of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the validity of which runs out in 1995, is being called into question. Preparations for its indefinite extension are already under way. But the nuclear explosion at Lop Nor is a mine placed under the treaty's future.

The world community is expressing angry indignation at Beijing's actions. It remains only to pin hope on the force of reason of leaders of nuclear powers, who must prevent the chain reaction generated by the explosion in China from becoming irreversible.

Government Refuses To Comment on Test*AU0510175293 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 5 Oct 93*

[Text] Paris, Oct 5 (AFP)—France Tuesday [5 October] refused to comment on China's nuclear test and the prospect of a resumption of testing in the U.S., French Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said.

Paris had "no comment" for the moment on the decision by Beijing to resume nuclear tests, Duque said.

France has observed a moratorium on nuclear testing since spring 1992. A report on whether to prolong the moratorium has recently been handed to Prime Minister Edouard Balladur but its contents have not been divulged.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard said recently that a suspension of nuclear testing for a few years would not endanger French national security.

Balladur 'Reluctant' To Comment on Test*BR0610120193 Paris LIBERATION in French 6 Oct 93
p 52*

[Article signed D.Gd.: "France is the Only Country To Reserve Response"]

[Text] "I will let you know what the government's position is once it has been established. I have nothing else to say today." At midday yesterday at the Canjuers (Department of Var) military base, Edouard Balladur was clearly reluctant to comment immediately on the Chinese nuclear test, which he learned about a few hours earlier as he left Paris with Defense Minister Francois Leotard and Admiral Jacques Lanxade to attend an Army demonstration.

Time to reflect and to consult with the Elysee Palace is more vital in this field than elsewhere. And it is not surprising, within the context of cohabitation, that France is the only nuclear power not have responded yesterday.

On his return from Canjuers, Edouard Balladur presided over the traditional weekly defense meeting at the Hotel Matignon [prime minister's office] with military chiefs, Francois Leotard, and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. According to reliable sources, the government's position was established at the meeting, and consultations with Francois Mitterrand should take place before this morning's council of ministers session, following which a public announcement should be made.

Referred to by the Hotel Matignon as "the Sydney test" (Sydney being the Australian city chosen in preference to Beijing for the 2000 Olympic Games), China's test could provide a formal pretext for France to resume a campaign of nuclear tests, in the spring at the earliest.

On 8 April 1992, Francois Mitterrand decided to suspend these tests, and on 14 July this year he extended this moratorium for 15 months, following the Americans. The chief of state said that the sole condition of the moratorium was that "the other nuclear powers do the same."

At the same time he appointed, together with Edouard Balladur, a committee of seven experts presided over by Admiral Lanxade, responsible for assessing the moratorium's effects on France's strike force. Composed of representatives of the CEA [Atomic Energy Commission], the arms industry, and the military, this group submitted its secret report to Edouard Balladur last week. The report apparently asserted the need to hold a few more tests mainly in order to acquire electronic simulation technology that would eventually permit a permanent end to the underground tests in Polynesia. But, according to reliable sources, they also believe that France could, as Francois Leotard recently said, do without tests "for some years," as long as they are subsequently resumed.

This is not the opinion of some RPR [Rally for the Republic] specialists, and particularly of Pierre Lellouche, Jacques Chirac's diplomatic adviser. The RPR deputy for Sarcelles believes that diplomatic reasons—specifically, the renegotiation in 1995 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the front that will then be formed in favor of a total test ban—mean that France must resume testing "between now and the 1994 European elections."

Paradoxically, the test carried out by China, which did not join the moratorium, could avert a cohabitation crisis by facilitating a compromise between the government and Francois Mitterrand. Indeed, nothing prevents France from announcing, as the United States did yesterday, that preparations will be undertaken, for whatever purpose, for a test campaign in the spring. This is not really news, because maintenance continues. But the effect of the announcement would underline the fact that courteous cohabitation is still feasible. And it could calm the passions of members of the government majority who, 2 days ago, were still asking whether it would not be judicious to engage in a dispute with the Elysee Palace over the issue of the military use of nuclear weapons.

Country in 'New Situation' Regarding Test Moratorium*AU0610122593 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 6 Oct 93*

[Text] Paris, Oct 6 (AFP)—A nuclear test carried out by China on Tuesday has placed France "in a new situation" as far as concerns its moratorium on nuclear testing, the government said on Wednesday.

An official communique said France would consult with the U.S., Russian and British governments, which are also observing a moratorium, to "examine the consequences" of the Chinese test.

The communique, released simultaneously by the offices of president Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, did not say if France was considering resuming nuclear testing, but said the ministry of defence was "using all means to maintain and develop France's technological capacity."

The communique reaffirmed France's policy of possessing a "credible and sufficient" nuclear deterrent to protect its vital interests.

The Chinese test broke a de facto moratorium observed since 1992 by all the five nuclear powers, and in some cases since 1991, that are members of the United Nations Security Council.

Mitterrand, Leotard on Test; State Policy on Testing

LD9610220693 Paris France-2 Television Network
in French 1900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [Presenter Paul Amar] Now that Eastern and Western Europe are breathing again after the dramatic events in Moscow, another fear is looming. As I told you yesterday, China has conducted a nuclear test; therefore, Beijing is not taking into account the truce observed by the club of nuclear powers. Bill Clinton reacted immediately by threatening to break this truce. This is not the opinion of Francois Mitterrand who is still attached to the moratorium. Let us listen to the head of state before talking live with Defense Minister Francois Leotard:

[Begin Mitterrand recording] We are consulting with the Americans, the British, and the Russians. We will make our decision at the end of these consultations, but I think we should remain cool. In the present situation and with the facts in my possession, I am not in favor of resuming nuclear tests. Of course, if other countries, like China, take this initiative, France would be forced to continue these tests in order to guarantee a sufficient level of its defense, but it will not give the signal. [end recording]

[Amar] Now we turn to the defense minister, live from the ministry. Good evening, Francois Leotard.

[Leotard] Good evening, Paul Amar.

[Amar] Could we have an explanation on France's position [concerning China's resumption of nuclear testing]. I imagine that the government—Edouard Balladur, yourself, and the president—are in agreement?

[Leotard] First, the suspension for more than a year of the tests has not so far affected in any way the efficiency of our current deterrent force. One should not give the impression that, as far as we and other countries are concerned, this suspension affects the deterrent capability of the French force. What is more of a problem for us is if the Americans or the Russians acquire the simulation capability which would allow us—after a few [nuclear] blasts to obtain it—to do without tests forever. But we have not reached this level yet. If we want to defend a deterrent force—which I remind you is a peaceful force, allowing us to guarantee the interests of France and peace—if we want to keep it and maintain its efficiency, we have to obtain the simulation capability quickly in order to maintain our weapons system.

[Amar] Well, Francois Leotard, in order to understand what you are saying there are two aspects to your statement. There is a political aspect, which is the moratorium or the truce, and for the moment France is

respecting the moratorium. In addition, there is a military aspect. When are you going to tell us when [nuclear] tests will be resumed?

[Leotard] You know, we heard the news of the Chinese blast like the Americans and the Russians did. There has been a succession of unilateral decisions to stop the tests. First there was France, then the United States, then Russia and Britain. Now there has been a unilateral decision by China to conduct a test. What is France's attitude? The first condition for a resumption of tests is to examine the credibility of our force, the interests of our country, and the capability of France to protect its vital interests. We do not bargain over this with anyone. The French tradition since General De Gaulle, for 35 years, has been to guarantee the autonomy of our decision in this field. We rule out any possibility of calling this into question. That is what I say and this what I argue for.

[Amar] The question is clear and is put to the defense minister: When will tests be resumed in order to perfect the French nuclear force?

[Leotard] You have read the communique issued today by the president and the prime minister. This communique asks, and this is what I do of course, to maintain the readiness of the French force of the Pacific for tests and the laboratories for preparing experiments. I do this because it is my job. At the appropriate moment, the French executive power—the president who, since 1958, since General de Gaulle, has signed the authorization of tests; the prime minister; and the government—would make the appropriate decision. But what is true, and I stress this because it is important that the French people know this, is that at the moment and taking into account the weapons in our possession, I say let us take time to think. [The matter does not need to be decided] by tomorrow or the next day. Again I say our deterrent force is not threatened by the suspension of tests. So this decision will be made in the coming months; and it will be made by the entire French executive.

[Amar] Is the executive—consisting of the president, the prime minister, and the defence minister—exactly on the same wavelength?

[Leotard] Since the president's decision in April—which he made by himself—we know his position, and we talk about it as our functions force us to do so. We do it as responsible people. So this decision will be made jointly at the appropriate moment. [passage omitted: repeats that French deterrent force is not threatened]

Points of Elysee-Matignon Communique on Test Summarized

LD0610125693 Paris France-2 Television Network
in French 1200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] The usual cabinet meeting took place this morning in the Elysee palace. France's reaction to the Chinese nuclear test was particularly awaited. Let me remind you that yesterday the Americans spoke of a

possible resumption of nuclear testing next year. What is being said in Paris? Here is Laurent Boussie speaking to us live from Matignon [Prime Minister's office]:

[Boussier] Yes, we have just received a communique, a communique that came from both the Elysee palace and Matignon. In this communique there are four important points.

The first is known: France wants to take part in the efforts to limit nuclear arms in the world. Clearly this is not new.

Second, France wants to conserve a credible nuclear deterrent. This is not new, either.

However, the third point is that the nuclear test carried out by the Chinese last night puts France and her allies in a new situation.

The result is—and this is the fourth point that I am reading from the communique—permission is given to the foreign minister to contact the American, English [as heard], and Russian Governments to look into the consequences to be drawn from the nuclear test that China has just carried out.

[Announcer] Yes, so France is in a new situation. These are the very words of the communique that you have just quoted. What does this mean exactly? Will we follow the Americans or not?

[Boussie] Well, it means that, for the moment, it is important that we wait. In fact, going back to this issue in the middle of a period of cohabitation entails reopening debates that neither Matignon nor the Elysee palace want to reopen. Let me remind you—because it is important—that this communique, the same one, was published at the same time by Matignon and the Elysee Palace. That said, the engineers that take care of the French nuclear arsenal have confirmed that to wait a few years does not for the moment bring the credibility of the dissuasion into question.

Leotard on Nuclear Test Policy; Says Tests 'Vital'

PM1210142093 Paris *LE FIGARO* in French 8 Oct 93 p 8

[Patrice-Henry Desaubliaux report: "Leotard: Ultimately Tests Are Still Vital"]

[Text] French nuclear tests are vital. Speaking to the National Assembly and Senate Defense Commissions and then presenting his 1994 budget to the press, Francois Leotard placed the wait-and-see reaction of the Elysee and Hotel Matignon to the Chinese nuclear test in our national context on Wednesday evening and yesterday morning.

Tests are vital, but, the defense minister stressed, the current absence of tests does not threaten the efficiency or credibility of our deterrent force. But, ultimately, they are vital. There are two reasons for this: France intends to equip itself with a simulation capability, the installation of which will require new tests, and it has nuclear weapons whose reliability and safety have to be tested from time to time.

However, France, Francois Leotard also reaffirmed, is in favor of a nuclear test ban treaty. It is in favor of it but without many illusions. Some countries—by implication, the United States—have achieved, or are very close to achieving, a miniaturization of warheads of the order of one kilotonne which makes tests virtually undetectable. In addition, does not nuclear history, including the most recent history, show that decisions to carry out tests, and decisions to observe a moratorium, have always been made unilaterally?

So, when will France resume its tests? The majority of deputies and senators on the Defense Commissions said that we ought not to wait too long. "The longer the tests are suspended," chairman Jacques Boyon told the Assembly, "the more difficult it will be to resume them." The deputies and senators are therefore suggesting 1994. The defense minister told them that, in this sphere, the decision has always rested with the head of state since the start of the Fifth Republic.

In a period of cohabitation, it rests with the executive, the prime minister, and the president of the republic, which means that one exercises a kind of right of veto over the other. Francois Leotard intends to take "the precautionary measures which will make it possible to decide on a new campaign of tests at any time."

In the draft budget for 1994, the nuclear envelope will be cut by 8.8 percent. This is because of the completion of the Mirage 2000-N program and because the M-5 missile program, launched in 1992, has slowed down, pending a decision on its fate by the future programming law. However, simulation studies—the Palen program—will be speeded up and will receive 280 million francs [Fr] in funding and Fr320 million in program credit clearance. These are long term studies which could take between six and 10 years, according to the experts.

With regard to his budget as a whole, Francois Leotard, in his statements to the deputies and journalists, welcomed the fact that what is essential has been safeguarded. The main negative points are, as already announced, the six-month delays to the nuclear aircraft-carrier, to the navy's Rafale (mid-1999), and to the air force's Rafale (the year 2000-2001), and the reduction in orders for the Leclerc tank to 44 (instead of 66). New capital for Giat-Industries (the Ground Armaments Industrial Group) is "imminent" as it is for Aerospatiale and SNECMA (National Company for the Design and Building of Aircraft Engines).

On the positive side, there is a break in the process of reducing the army's staffing levels, and even the creation of 1,000 recruits' posts; funds which, in total, are up by 1.3 percent whereas, in 1993, for the first time since 1945, France's gross domestic commercial product will fall by 0.8 percent; a substantial effort in the intelligence and space spheres; the order of a second Foudre [landing ship], and the continuation of the Tigre and NH-90 helicopter cooperation programs. And an improvement in support for the forces.

Test Reported, Exact Coordinates Given

*LD0510083693 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 0752 GMT 5 Oct 93*

[Excerpt] China today exploded an underground nuclear bomb that was detected by at least 71 seismic stations, a British-based independent scientific agency said.

"The test shows that China puts development of its own nuclear weapons above international attempts to curb nuclear proliferation," the Verification Technology Information Centre said in a statement. It said seismic monitors showed China conducted the underground nuclear test at 3am.

The London-based independent centre accurately forecast China's 1992 nuclear tests.

Nuclear experts have predicted that a Chinese underground test was imminent and that it could undermine the moratorium on nuclear testing being observed by the United States, Russia and France.

Vipin Gupta of London University's Imperial College, who is a foreign affairs consultant with the centre, has monitored China's Lop Nor test site for 3 years.

The site is north of the Taklimakan desert, about 1,450 miles west of Peking in Xinjiang province. The nearest city is Urumqi about 125 miles northwest of the test site. He said: "The explosion occurred in the eastern zone of the nuclear test site at 41 degrees 34 minutes north, 88 degrees 41 minutes east."

"So far 71 seismic stations have detected the explosion. More will pick it up as time goes by once they realise it is on their seismometers."

The Chinese government made no immediate comment on centre's report.

Last month, the United States said a Chinese nuclear test was imminent and asked Peking to call it off. China said on September 20 only that it had taken note of the US appeal.

China says it has conducted about 30 nuclear tests since its first sucessful explosion in 1964.

It is believed to have the smallest arsenal of the world's declared nuclear powers with some 250 to 300 warheads.

Kazakhstan has in recent months complained to the United States about China's testing policy, saying it was threatening the environment and the health of its people. The Lop Nor site is about 550 miles east of the Kazakh border.

A Chinese nuclear test would undoubtedly further strain relations with the United States, which is already smarting from disputes involving human rights, trade and arms proliferation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Office Finds Test 'Regrettable'

*LD0510174193 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1711 GMT 5 Oct 93*

[By Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defense correspondent]

[Text] Fears were growing tonight that China's decision to test a nuclear weapon could destroy tentative hopes of a global test ban. Within hours of a Chinese announcement, President Clinton directed the US energy department to prepare for a possible resumption of underground nuclear testing. And there were increasing signs that France was poised to restart its testing programme before the end of the year.

The U.S. President suspended U.S. tests for 15 months from July 3 and he stopped short of saying he would actually order renewed testing, saying his decision would depend on "fundamental US national security interests."

Meanwhile Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters at the Tory party conference that Britain—which uses US testing facilities in Nevada—"will need now to concert a line and a policy with the Americans, and that is under way."

A Foreign Office statement said: "Against the background of restraint in testing by other nuclear powers, the Chinese resumption is regrettable but we do not necessarily see this as a setback for prospects for a comprehensive test ban treaty."

The London-based independent research agency the Verification Technology Information Centre said the Chinese test in an underground shaft registered 5.8 on the Richter Scale and had a yield of between 10 and 90 kilotons.

Vertic said it was China's 39th known nuclear test—but the first since the US joined France and Russia in a testing moratorium in an attempt to promote a comprehensive world test ban.

Spokesman Vipin Gupta said: "The goal of a comprehensive test ban is too important to throw away. The USA, France, Russia and Britain should maintain the moratorium to give CTB negotiations a chance."

Yet according to a new report, France is close to resuming testing, perhaps within weeks.

Written by Dr Shaun Gregory for the Bradford University School of Peace Studies, the study highlighted the French decision to set up a seven-man team in July to assess whether the moratorium was adversely affecting nuclear arms. And Defence Minister Francois Leotard announced last month that, if the team reported any threat to the French nuclear arsenal from the moratorium, testing would be resumed "whatever the international situation."

Foreign Minister Expresses Concern Over Test to PRC Counterpart

OW0510111193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 5 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry source said Tuesday [5 October] there is a "strong possibility" that China conducted an underground nuclear test earlier in the day.

The source said that if it was a bomb it appeared smaller in scale than one exploded on September 25, 1992, which was over 1 megaton.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Agency said it has received information from its U.S. counterpart that minor tremors were registered in China, which might have been caused by a nuclear test.

The information said a shallow earthquake was registered as occurring in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, where China has previously conducted its tests.

Reports from London quoted the independent Verification Technology Information Center as saying seismic monitors indicated that China conducted an underground nuclear test explosion at 0200 GMT Tuesday, causing earthquake-like shock waves.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada issued a statement saying China's apparent detonation of a nuclear device is "extremely regrettable" since it hinders efforts to achieve a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

Terada said Japan will continue to "strongly urge" China not to carry out such tests.

On September 28, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata met with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in New York and expressed Japan's concern over suspected Chinese plans to resume nuclear testing.

Qian replied then that China has all along shown restraint on nuclear testing, citing the fact that it has carried out the least number of tests among the self-acknowledged nuclear powers.

U.S. intelligence reports last month indicated that China had inserted a nuclear device into a hole at its Lop Nor test site in Xinjiang, some 2,300 kilometers west of Beijing.

The reports said the site had been sealed with concrete and predicted China would detonate the device in the first week of October.

No country is known to have tested a nuclear device since China's previous 1992 test, which took place 2 days after the most recent U.S. nuclear test under the Nevada desert. The apparent Chinese test has raised concern that the United States, Russia, and other nations might break their self-imposed nuclear test bans.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last July extended a U.S. moratorium on nuclear testing for 15 months, but said that might not hold if another nation resumed tests.

There has been considerable speculation that China planned to delay its test until after a decision was made on which city would host the Olympics in 2000. Sydney won that competition on September 23.

Foreign Ministry Finds Test 'Extremely Regrettable'

OW0610130193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 6 KYODO—Japan urged China on Wednesday [6 October] to refrain from conducting a nuclear test following its detonation of a nuclear device in its western area Tuesday after one-year suspension, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito made the request to Chinese Ambassador to Japan Xu Dunxin at the Foreign Ministry.

Saito was quoting as telling Xu that "although Japan has repeatedly demanded China suspend a nuclear test through foreign ministers' talks, China conducted the test and it is extremely regrettable."

Pointing out the test goes against the international current toward nuclear disarmament, Saito said "China's test might give an excuse to other nuclear powers to resume nuclear experiments."

Xu, handing over to Saito the Chinese Government's statement claiming the test was only for self-defense, said he will convey the request to the Chinese Government, according to the official.

The official said Japan will also ask four other nuclear powers not to resume nuclear tests through its overseas embassies.

In a related development, two local groups in Hiroshima consisting of atomic bomb victims at World War II sent notes of protest to Chinese Premier Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin.

The groups condemned the nuclear test in the notes as "a reckless action running counter to international opinion."

Foreign Ministry Supports Beijing's Position on Nuclear Testing

OW1010081693 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 0210 GMT 10 Oct 93

[By reporter Hou Yaoqi (0186 5069 0366)]

[Text] Havana, 9 Oct (XINHUA)—On 9 October the Cuban Foreign Ministry issued a statement in Cuba's official newspaper GRANMA supporting China's position on nuclear weapons and arguing that the underground nuclear test China recently conducted and announced was its "sovereign decision."

The statement said: The Cuban Government has called for total and thorough disarmament as well as the destruction

of all nuclear weapons; it has supported negotiations aimed at reaching an international agreement on banning all nuclear testings. However, before an agreement is signed it is unacceptable for large countries with huge nuclear arsenals to "arbitrarily try to impose their own views on other countries."

The statement pointed out: China is not one of the countries with a huge nuclear arsenal. While conducting a nuclear test, China reiterated its call for totally banning nuclear testing and completely destroying nuclear weapons, and assured it will never be the first to use nuclear weapons. This position of China is a "sovereign decision made by the Chinese Government" and "does not violate the international obligations it has committed itself to."

Radio Cites PRC Government's Statement on Test
*SK0710074093 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 6 Oct 93*

[Text] According to a XINHUA report, on 5 October the Chinese Government issued a statement regarding its nuclear test. It stated that China conducted an underground nuclear test on 5 October 1993. The statement noted that China's development and possession of a small amount of nuclear weapons is totally for self-defense purposes.

The statement recalled that China not only has insisted for a long time on the overall banning and abolition of nuclear weapons, but also insists on an overall banning of nuclear test within this (?category).

The statement noted: China strongly demands that all countries possessing nuclear weapons hold talks to conclude an international agreement on unconditionally

abstain from using nuclear weapons first and abstain from using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear countries and nuclear-free zones.

The statement declared that, if a treaty on the overall banning of nuclear test is concluded and effectuated, China will observe the treaty and no longer conduct a nuclear test.

The statement stressed: Those countries possessing the largest nuclear weapon (?stores) should, in a responsible manner, take the initiative in refraining their activity of developing nuclear weapons and should renounce their nuclear blackmailing policy seeking to use nuclear weapons first and to use nuclear weapons or to threaten to use them against nonnuclear countries and nuclear-free zones. They should also clearly promise to totally ban and abolish nuclear weapons and to sharply reduce their nuclear weapons on a continuous basis.

Test Said To 'Throw Cold Water' on Proliferation Consensus

*SK0610020193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT
6 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Ministry officials were worried Tuesday that China's nuclear test may send the wrong message to North Korea.

The topic was addressed at the Ministry's regular high-level morning conference, led by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, officials said.

China's nuclear test and U.S. President Bill Clinton's reactionary decision to reopen U.S. testing may strain Beijing-Washington relations, and Pyongyang might think that the international coordination on its nuclear problem can be broken, one official said.

It might also think that China, which displayed its adherence to an independent nuclear policy, will be unable to press North Korea on the nuclear question.

Beijing, as it did in the U.N. Security Council vote on a resolution on North Korea, abstained in last week's International Atomic Energy Agency general conference vote on a resolution against Pyongyang.

"China's move threw cold water on the growing global consensus against nuclear non-proliferation," another official said. "It's important for nuclear countries to exercise self-restraint."

Officials predicted, nevertheless, no serious change in Seoul-Beijing cooperation on the North Korean nuclear situation.

"China-U.S. relations can well be patched up before their summit next month," the official said.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Calls Test 'Regrettable'

*SK0610031093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT
6 Oct 93*

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 6 (YONHAP)—Seoul expressed concern Wednesday at China's underground nuclear test Tuesday and said it hoped that it would not mar global negotiations for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

"It is regrettable that China conducted the nuclear test when nuclear powers are restraining testing and international efforts for conclusion of the CTBT are gaining momentum," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yu Myong-wan said in a statement.

"Our government urges all nuclear countries to restrain from nuclear testing until the CTBT is concluded," the statement reads.

"And we hope for expedited efforts for nuclear nonproliferation for peace and stability of mankind."

Officials Debate Impact of Test on DPRK Nuclear Issue

*SK0610084093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT
6 Oct 93*

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 6 (YONHAP)—Seoul officials were trying hard Tuesday to deny any domino effect from China's underground nuclear test on North Korea's non-compliance with nuclear inspection obligations.

The nature of the controversy is different at the very core, Foreign Ministry officials said. China is already a nuclear power and its underground test was strictly within the terms of the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), of which it is a member. North Korea, on the other hand, is a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) but refuses to comply with its terms.

But the two controversies share one thing: They are a challenge to the international mood for nuclear nonproliferation, and they are a serious challenge because they can encourage other threshold nuclear countries, too, to go against this international mood.

"The global coordination was strong because the international community stood together against North Korea's violation of the nonproliferation move," said one official, who declined to be named.

"But now with China doing the same, North Korea might think it has gained a comrade," he said. "It's no small blow to the international community."

Another official worried that hardliners in North Korea may get the upper hand as a result.

"Let's say the more liberal faction in North Korea was telling the leadership that the global trend is against nuclear development and Pyongyang should follow. Now the hardliners can confidently say, 'look at China. The spell is broken and we can hold out a little longer,'" he said.

The impact may be regional, according to this official, perhaps with rival Japan using this as an excuse for military buildup.

"With China detonating its nuclear bombs, some countries may ask themselves if they can afford to sit still," he said.

But no official was willing to admit that China's power of persuasion over North Korea is weaker after the nuclear test.

It's unrealistic to think that strained relations with the United States will send China to the side of North Korea, officials said.

China knows well enough that the North Korean situation is different from its own, that the obligations are different. Beijing does not lose ground on North Korea, they say.

Seoul officials do not expect the situation to blow over, pointing out that both Beijing and Washington are aware of the political reality.

"It's the political reality that made Washington invite Chinese President Jiang Zemin to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting next month in Seattle and to a bilateral summit, and it is the recognition of this reality that made Jiang accept," the official said.

Seoul is counting on the nuclear powers, especially the United States, to exercise self-restraint. The best choice is to wait and see how U.S. President Bill Clinton, already warning he will seek resumption of U.S. nuclear testing, will steer the situation.

Foreign Minister To Discuss Test During Beijing Visit

SK0710012993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0115 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—Seoul will express its concerns about China's recent underground nuclear test and its possible negative impact on the North Korean

nuclear situation when Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu visits Beijing later this month, officials said Thursday.

Han will be in China from Oct. 28 for meetings with his counterpart, Qian Qichen. He is also expected to meet with Chinese leader Jiang Zemin.

South Korea immediately responded with worry that Beijing's nuclear test throws cold water on the global movement for Nuclear Nonproliferation. The break in international cooperation for control on nuclear development is feared to send the wrong message to Pyongyang, which is refusing outside inspection of its suspected atomic facilities.

France strongly reacted by saying it may cancel its moratorium on nuclear testing, following a similar reaction by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Foreign Ministry officials said that they will take the opportunity of Han's visit to clearly express Seoul's concerns at these developments, with special emphasis on their potential to negatively affect efforts to solve the North Korean nuclear situation.

"We will be watching how the matter develops, but we have to take up the issue with China," one official said.

Editorial Tries To Put Test in Broader Context
*BK1410043093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
7 Oct 93 p 8*

[Editorial: "China's Nuclear Stance"]

[Text] China's latest nuclear test puts into sharp relief two key aspects of its basic policy on nuclear disarmament. One, of course is the well-known Chinese stand that so long as the U.S. clings to nuclear deterrence as its own fundamental policy, all talk of disarmament will be deceptive. This is why China constantly harps on the theme that even if the START-I and START-II accords between the two countries with the biggest nuclear arsenals, i.e. the U.S. and Russia, are faithfully implemented, it will be 2003 before their respective armaments will be reduced to 3,000 and 3,500 nuclear devices.

The other thing which China has now underlined is that it will not meekly accept, as an example worth following, any ad hoc measure on disarmament which the U.S. might deem vital. Beijing insists that every step towards universal denuclearisation must be negotiated between all the nuclear weapons states. Perhaps the Chinese will agree to consider any American proposal if the U.S. at least takes it up with them bilaterally. But a mere appeal to China to respect the unilateral American moratorium on tests by itself observing similar restraint is, in Beijing's view, a different thing altogether. This approach was implicit in China's test in September 1992 within days of the announcement of the American moratorium.

Other aspects of the wide range of the Sino-U.S. relationships also impinge constantly on disarmament moves. Last month the U.S. slapped sanctions against China, along with Pakistan, to register its disapproval of the transfer of Chinese M-11 missile components and technology. The overall impact, in economic terms, of the sanctions has been anything but a matter of deep concern to Beijing. But the slight caused to China rankles and leads to more tension in bilateral dealings from time to time. Again, proposals for the supply of more sophisticated American military hardware to Taiwan have had the same effect. Given such irritants, it is easy to imagine the Chinese authorities wondering why they should oblige President Clinton by heeding such pleas as the one relating to a moratorium on tests.

There is yet another factor, which, of late, seems to have started worrying the Chinese. That is the course U.S.-Russian ties may take. The collapse of the Soviet Union as a superpower relieved Beijing of much of its anxiety about its security. But the Chinese rulers could not have dismissed, as a routine affair, an accord on strengthening U.S.-Russian defence ties signed last month. It is about joint peace-keeping exercises and setting up a defence hotline. The American Defence Secretary, Les Aspin, hailed the agreement as a signal that "the well-being and security of the U.S. and the Russian Federation are vitally related." The actual signal the Chinese might well have discerned is that they had better keep a close watch. Beijing may thus become more wary about moves against nukes.

Test Said To Be 'Thwarting' Moratorium on Testing
*LD0510190993 Hamburg DPA in German 1743 GMT
5 Oct 93*

[Excerpts] Beijing (DPA)—Despite all warnings from the United States, China carried out the first nuclear test in the world for a year, thereby thwarting all efforts to achieve a general stop of testing. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn regrets that China has ignored the [unofficial] moratorium that all nuclear powers in the world have adhered to in practice for a year. This step was in contradiction to the positive recent development of efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament, Foreign Ministry spokesman Michael Gerdts said in Bonn today. The German Government appealed to Beijing not to carry out any more tests so as not to jeopardize a world-wide agreement.

Government Says Test Shows 'Callous Disregard'

*OW0710085093 Taipei CNA in English 0819 GMT
7 Oct 93*

[By Sofia Wu]

[Text] Taipei, Oct. 7 (CNA)—The Republic of China [ROC] Government Thursday [October 7] condemned Beijing for conducting underground nuclear weapons testing.

Mainland China set off an underground nuclear blast Tuesday at its remote northwest Lop Nor testing range, breaching an informal global testing moratorium.

Government Spokesman Jason Hu said the move reflected Beijing's callous disregard of world opinion and might threaten international stability.

Hu urged Beijing to abandon its military expansion program and stop underground nuclear testing.

"Beijing should do more to prevent nuclear proliferation and help ensure steady development in the Asia-Pacific region," Hu stressed.

Further on Taipei's Criticism of Nuclear Weapons Testing

*OW0910103593 Taipei Voice of Free China in English
0200 GMT 9 Oct 93*

[From the "News" program]

[Text] The Republic of China Government Thursday [7 October] formally condemned Peking's [Beijing's] recent nuclear test in Hsinchiang [Xinjiang], saying it worsened global stability and harmed international efforts to ban nuclear testing. Government Spokesman Jason Hu relayed the statement during a news conference after the weekly cabinet meeting. Hu stressed Peking should stop nuclear testing as a means of building up its military. Instead, Peking should work peacefully to strengthen cross-Straits relations and the stable development of the Asia-Pacific region. Also on Thursday, Peking claimed that international criticism of its recent nuclear test was unfair. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wu Chien-min [Wu Jianmin] said that Mainland China had conducted fewer nuclear tests than the other four nations which now possess atomic weapons, the United States, Russia, France, and Britain. When asked if the nuclear testing program will continue, Wu said only that Peking always exercises utmost restraint with regard to nuclear testing.

Government Issues 'Strong' Protest Over Test
*PY0810131893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0221 GMT
 8 Oct 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Oct (EFE)—The Argentine Government today joined the "strong" international "protest" against a nuclear test recently conducted by the People's Republic of China.

A communique issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry points out that this test "represents a negative element in enhancing international peace and security."

The communique adds that the resumption of nuclear tests by the Beijing regime "might complicate prospects for achieving a treaty completely banning nuclear explosions, a treaty that Argentina firmly supports."

The test, conducted in a desert area of the PRC, and which elicited a strong reaction from U.S. President Bill Clinton, "goes against the constructive unilateral decision not to conduct these kinds of tests that was made by the rest of the nuclear powers in order to favor negotiations for such a momentous agreement."

The Argentine communique concludes in pointing out that the government's stance was formally conveyed today to PRC Ambassador to Argentina Tang Yonggui.

Commentary Sees Test as 'Diplomatic Bomb'
*PY1210194393 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
 9 Oct 93 p 16*

[Editorial: "The Chinese Bomb"]

[Text] The underground nuclear explosion carried out on 5 October by the PRC in the Lop Nur desert in Xinjiang Region, which was broadly covered by the Beijing press (contrary to custom), fell like a diplomatic bomb in Western foreign ministries.

In July 1962 the nuclear powers had managed to reach a consensus, which should last until September 1994, to suspend their nuclear tests. In the meantime, they were to try to reach an agreement on the subject. The PRC did not approve the moratorium, but neither did it resume its tests. Instead, the Beijing men signed the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) accepting the general idea that the proliferation of nuclear weapons should be avoided.

The Chinese position, which is well known, was reiterated a few days ago at the UN General Assembly: The PRC endorses the total destruction of nuclear weapons and the immediate negotiation of a treaty to prohibit nuclear tests.

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that his country has demonstrated moderation in its nuclear tests (in fact it has carried out fewer tests than the other members of the "club") and that the crucial issue is that the PRC has decided not to use nuclear weapons: "China decided long ago not to use them, nor threaten to do so, against

countries that do not have them or which are located in nuclear weapon free zones," he said.

Behind this rhetoric we must point out the fact that the PRC is not very certain of the direction of world affairs. The PRC continues to believe that force solves controversies so it wants to shorten the technological gap with other nuclear powers. The effect this policy has produced is regrettable because U.S. President Bill Clinton has instructed his administration to establish the conditions to resume nuclear tests next year (the moratorium is valid until then) if more violations of the moratorium are observed. Other members of this exclusive nuclear club, including Russia, have sided with him. Therefore, this represents an eventual setback in the denuclearization effort initiated by the end of the Cold War.

This implies, without doubt, a responsibility for the men in Beijing, providing that their challenge is not an effect of the war among factions concerning the succession of Deng Xiaoping whose old age (he has just turned 89) presupposes his definite estrangement from the political decision-making circle where he at least symbolizes the unity of the regime.

The PRC underground explosion represents something else. It is the reply to the recent U.S. decision to apply sanctions to the PRC for having sold missile technology to Pakistan, a country that, as it is known, is obtaining its own atomic bomb. We are speaking of an M-11 mobile missile, capable of transporting an up to 450-kiloton nuclear warhead at a maximum 300-km range. Of course Beijing denies this transference of technology, which would allow the Karachi government to attack India.

U.S. companies have been forbidden to sell satellite and communications technology to the PRC, although the United States continues to maintain the most-favored-nation clause in its trade—the volume of which exceeds \$30 billion annually—with the PRC.

These two political decisions demonstrate the ambiguity of a policy that on the one hand demands that Beijing respect human rights, including banishing "virtual slave labor" (through which the PRC manages to export products at very low cost), stop selling "sensitive" materiel to third countries, and adhere totally to nuclear disarmament principles, and on the other hand wants to maintain trade advantages and investments in a country that is experiencing a spectacular development "boom." [preceding word in English]

The PRC resolves this progress in the material field combined with a weak political system with the need—as expressed by its leaders—to demonstrate that it makes autonomous decisions and that it does not depend at all on international pressures. This again places the PRC in a sideline position that had been overcome through the opening to the West initiated by Zhou Enlai and with the Shanghai agreements between Nixon and Mao Zedong.

As if this were not enough, episodes contrary to the Chinese program to recover its total territorial reunification are taking place.

Independent movements are springing up in Taiwan, which is a contrast to other Taiwanese sectors' attempts at rapprochement with the continent.

The liberating measures tested by the current British governor in Hong Kong represent a challenge to the political strictness maintained by Beijing following the tragic events of Tiananmen Square which constituted a tombstone for the democratic aspirations of the Chinese youth.

In this complex scene, as demonstrated by this analysis, there exists a disagreement between the PRC and the West beside the fear of the Chinese leaders that the internal situation may get out of control. The recent events in Russia, where the opposition supported by the neo Communists and ultra nationalists was crushed, probably affect the spirit of the men in Beijing.

One must ask oneself if the trend toward peace and disarmament is so fragile as to retreat in the face of these challenges, or if the international community will be able to reach agreements marked by wisdom to negotiate their disagreements and to defeat a common enemy which is the "bomb."

Government Sends Note 'Deploring' Test

PY0910225193 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia
Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Itamaraty Secretary General Roberto Abdenur forwarded a note from the Brazilian Government to the PRC Government deplored the fact that the PRC is conducting nuclear tests. Abdenur has been the Brazilian

ambassador to the PRC for the last 5 years and is in Beijing saying farewell to the local authorities and the diplomatic corps.

President Itamar Franco's administration supports the nuclear test moratorium being respected, so far, by the United States, Russia, and France.

Brazil has also joined the Tlatelolco Treaty that forbids the use of nuclear weapons in Latin America.

Foreign Secretariat Considers Test 'Setback'
*PA0810204693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0128 GMT 8 Oct 93*

[Text] Mexico City, 7 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government deplored today the nuclear test conducted in China, noting that it constitutes a setback in the international suspension of nuclear tests, the Foreign Secretariat has reported.

A Foreign Secretariat communique notes that Mexico regrets the nuclear test carried out by China on Tuesday and appeals to the other countries possessing nuclear weapons to respect the moratorium. A total end to nuclear tests is a fundamental step to raising the hope of ending the nuclear threat that has hovered over the world. It is also a prelude to a general and total ban of that type of weapon, the communique reads.

The United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia have also expressed their rejection of the Chinese nuclear test which ended a 15-month international moratorium. Japan headed the reaction in Asia against the nuclear test carried out by China which, together with the United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia, possess the largest nuclear arsenals in the world.

The Chinese Foreign Minister stated Thursday in Beijing that international criticism was unfair because "among the five nuclear powers, China is the one that has conducted the least tests."

Last Tuesday China detonated an atomic bomb with the force of 70 to 80 kilotons in the Lop Nur desert testing grounds in the northwestern Province of Xinjiang.

Kazakh Antinuke Group Concerned Over Plan To Conduct Test

*OW210185693 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
1300 GMT 1 Oct 93*

[Text] (Duliyinainov), president of the International Anti-nuclear Movement and a well-known Kazakh poet, urged UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali and U.S. President

Clinton to extend the nuclear testing moratorium to the year 2005. Kazakh President Nazarbeyev had put this proposal forward earlier.

The International Antinuclear Movement expressed concern over China's plan to conduct a nuclear test at Lop Nor Lake, which is close to Kazakhstan.

(Duliyinainov) warned the United Nations and the United States that China's nuclear test will result in a chain reaction by the world's other nuclear testing sites.

New Zealand 'Very Angry,' Lodges 'Strong' Protest
*BK0610001793 Hong Kong AFP in English 2222 GMT
5 Oct 93*

[Text] Wellington, Oct 6 (AFP)—New Zealand was "very angry" at China for its resumption of nuclear testing and had lodged a strong protest, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said in a statement here Wednesday.

China, in conducting a nuclear test Tuesday, became the first nation in more than a year to do so.

McKinnon said he had called Chinese ambassador Li Jinhua to file a protest.

"The test showed a blatant disregard for the views of the international community," McKinnon said.

"This is a serious undermining of world expectations about the ending of testing which New Zealand is very angry about."

A 15-month moratorium on nuclear testing, which had been respected by Britain, France, Russia and the United States, is now under threat.

China as a member of the Security Council was supposed to show restraint and leadership, but had not shown this responsibility, McKinnon said.

"The action, moreover, runs the risk of contributing to the dangers of proliferation, which is a major threat to the world in its search for stability after the Cold War," he said.

The protest note acknowledged China's previous low level of testing frequency but said this did not provide justification for testing at this time.

"New Zealand is seriously disappointed that representations it has made at a high level on this subject twice in recent weeks have been ignored," he said.

Foreign Ministry Reiterates Opposition to All Nuclear Testing

*BK0810013193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
8 Oct 93 p A2*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday reiterated the government's opposition to all nuclear testing, but stopped short of specifically commenting on the underground detonation of nuclear device by China in Xinjiang province on Tuesday.

"As a country that is opposed to all forms of nuclear tests, we consider nuclear tests a threat to the environment," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairirksh.

China's 39th nuclear test at Lop Nor desert site has attracted strong international criticism as a blow to hopes for a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

The detonation was carried out in defiance of the United States' call for a 15-month moratorium on tests. Other nuclear powers, Britain, France and Russia called the test regrettable and a setback to the moratorium.

The Chinese have defended the test by comparing their nuclear capabilities with the programmes of Russia the United States, Britain and France, which they say are far more advanced.

Foreign Ministry Expresses 'Deep Regret'

*LD0610131593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1212 GMT 6 Oct 93*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, October 6 (TASS)—The Mongolian Foreign Ministry expressed on Wednesday deep regret at a nuclear detonation made by China on October 5.

A statement circulated here on this occasion stresses that this move by China can have negative influence on a planned international conference on the complete prohibition of nuclear tests and on other powers which can resume the testing of these mass destruction weapons.

Commenting on this action by China, head of the Mongolian Foreign Ministry press department Terbishyn Chimiddorzh stressed that the four nuclear powers, supporting the U.S. President's initiative, undertook not to resume nuclear testing up to the end of September 1994.

The above moves created good prerequisites to start talks aimed at concluding a treaty on the full-scale prohibition of mass destruction weapons, he continued.

The Mongolian side expressed its negative attitude to China's intention to detonate a nuclear charge on September 22, Chimiddorzh noted.

Forum Representing 15 Nations Criticizes Test

*OW0710021293 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin
1300 GMT 6 Oct 93*

[From the "News" program]

[Text] On Wednesday [6 October], South Pacific nations criticized China for conducting an underground nuclear test. They expressed their hope that this action would not lead to a resumption of similar tests by other major nuclear powers.

The statement was made by the secretary general of the South Pacific Forum. Fifteen South Pacific nations have joined the organization, including Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

China conducted a nuclear test on Tuesday.

According to a REUTERS report, a Chinese Government announcement said: China will not stop conducting nuclear tests until an international treaty which bans all nuclear tests is signed.

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